

provisions of the act which deny aid to a country blocking humanitarian assistance to a third country. Turkey has been blocking such assistance to Armenia but the President chooses to waive the applicable provisions of the Humanitarian Corridors Act. The House has responded by overwhelmingly adopting an amendment denying the President future use of this authority.

The House also spoke resoundingly when it adopted an amendment cutting by \$3 million the economic support funds Turkey receives until the Government of Turkey acknowledges the atrocity committee against the Armenians and takes appropriate steps to honor the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide.

Mr. Chairman, these amendments will send a strong message to the Turkish Government that the United States expects the victims of the Armenian genocide to be recognized and that silence in the face of such atrocities is unacceptable.

TRIBUTE TO THE 1996 GRADUATES RECOGNIZED BY THE CHALDEAN FEDERATION OF AMERICA

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all the students being recognized by the Chaldean Federation of America at their Annual Commencement and Scholarship Program. The program is being held this afternoon at the Mother of God Chaldean Church in Southfield, MI.

An umbrella organization of Chaldean churches and civic organizations, the Chaldean Federation of America devotes the majority of its efforts to education. The Federation encourages Chaldean youth not only to remain in school, but to strive for academic excellence and achievement. Nearly 300 Chaldean youths graduating from southeast Michigan high schools and 60 others who have completed their studies at several Michigan colleges and universities, will be recognized.

It is becoming increasingly evident that both individual success and the prosperity of America depend on education. It is truly encouraging to know so many of these students, who in many cases are first generation Americans, are learning this lesson early. Because of their success, the Chaldean community, Michigan and the United States will all benefit.

I commend the graduating class of 1996 and encourage all the individuals involved to remain students for life. As our future leaders, I wish all the graduates continued success and urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING THE HENDERSONVILLE VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services

provided by the Hendersonville Volunteer Rescue Squad. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that should disaster strike, we know that our friends and neighbors are there to help.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a member of the rescue squad. Rescue squad members undergo a training series over a four to six month period which includes instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [CPR], vehicle extrication, emergency driving, and rescue orientation. In addition to this training, rescue squad members also meet monthly to address business concerns as well as hear guest speakers.

Rescue squad members are volunteers. They receive no pay for what they do. What also makes their service especially outstanding is that the organizations themselves receive no funding. They receive no funding from the city, the county, or the Federal Government.

Rescue squads are funded in the same spirit of community volunteerism which moves them to serve. Family, friends, and neighbors pitch in at bake sales, road blocks, and fish fries to help those who sacrifice their time for the benefit of the whole community.

Committing such an amount of spare time and energy to a job so emotionally and physically taxing requires a sense of devotion and duty for which we are all grateful.

IDEA IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 1996

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I regret to say that I am opposed to this bill in its current form.

As a member of the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee for the past 15 years who has been involved in similar special education reauthorization discussions, let me begin by commending full committee Chairman GOODLING and subcommittee Chairman CUNNINGHAM for their efforts to develop a compromise IDEA reauthorization bill that can be supported by a coalition of parent groups, disability groups, and school groups. In doing so, they have continued the bipartisan spirit that IDEA has always enjoyed.

With that said, I must express my strong disappointment with and opposition to the bill's funding formula. Although the formula has been modified to decrease disproportionate funding losses absorbed by States such as New Jersey, I do not believe that it goes far enough. While the changes to the funding formula represent progress, the formula itself will continue a funding war between the States. And, the victims will be the children.

The issues affecting the special education Federal funding formula are extremely complicated and State-specific. For example, there is disagreement among special education experts as to whether or not there is a correlation between poverty and disability incidence rate, which is why the administration's funding formula for new money does not include a poverty factor. A perfect example of this is suburban Detroit which, although it is the

wealthiest district in Michigan, it has that State's highest identification level.

These are exactly the types of reasons that the Senate Labor Committee passed its IDEA reauthorization bill without changing the current formula, and why the Washington-based coalition of parent, disability and school groups decided to take no position on the current formula despite having taken a position on all other areas of this bill.

Everyone recognizes that there are problems with the current special education system, particularly those related to the over-identification of disabled students. That is why changes in current law included in this bill, such as placement-neutral funding, are so important. States and local education agencies that have experienced overidentification will be forced to re-evaluate their systems for identification and placement. However, these changes cannot take place overnight.

Because IDEA is a tremendous underfunded mandate, we have no justification for taking even more of this small pot of money away from States like New Jersey who have done nothing but comply with the statutory and regulatory requirements of IDEA.

Many advocates for IDEA reform truly believe that once children are classified as disabled they are committed to special education for life. Well, if this is the case, it does not matter how much more or less money flows to New Jersey, because we will still have 200,000 children in special education. And, because the law entitles each of these children to a free appropriate public education, the State and localities will have no choice but to find this additional shortfall of Federal money and provide the services required under the law.

In order to make sure that participating children receive adequate special education services, we must make every effort to employ professionals qualified to meet their needs. To that end, I have voiced my concerns about the bill's provisions on professional standards, and will continue to do so. The bottom line is that, without properly trained special education providers, disabled children dependent on such services will never obtain the education they need. When that happens, our special education system will have failed. However, I am confident that this will not happen, but that we will build on the many reforms of this bill by strengthening both the professional standards language and the funding formula in conference.

However, until these additional changes are made, I must oppose H.R. 3268.

ANTONIO J. PALUMBO RECEIVES DEGREE FROM LAROCHE COLLEGE

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Antonio J. Palumbo, a gentleman from western Pennsylvania who recently was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Administration by the Board of Trustees of LaRoche College. Mr. Palumbo in his 90 years of life has been a successful entrepreneur, a generous philanthropist, and an important community leader.